



Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and success. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

Nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and childminders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare.
- The 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge.
- Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS.
- Expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the 'Early Learning Goals (ELG's).

First Contact

and

Support Hub

01429 284284

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<http://hartlepool.fsd.org.uk>

To find your nearest children's
centre call: **01429 284284**



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There is also guidance for the professionals supporting your child on planning the learning activities, and observing and assessing what and how your child is learning and developing.

What does it mean for me as a parent?



Ensuring my child's safety

Much thought has been given to make sure that your child is as safe as possible. Within the EYFS there is a set of welfare standards that everyone must follow. These include the number of staff required in a nursery, how many children a childminder can look after, and things like administering medicines and carrying out risk assessments.



Quality

You can find out about the quality of your child's nursery and other early years providers by checking what the Government's official inspection body for early years, Ofsted, has to say about it. You can find this information at www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report.



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